

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for selecting determining at least one financial strategy from a plurality of financial strategies to achieve at least one financial goal for assets to meet financial goals, each financial strategy comprising an asset allocation, comprising the steps of:

receiving investor financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

determining a plurality of attribute measures an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies
based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies ~~to meet the financial goals using~~
~~a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~
~~wherein determining the outcomes comprises the step of performing a plurality of Monte~~
~~Carlo simulations for each of the financial strategies.~~

3. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, further
comprising: ~~for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals,~~
~~comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~
~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a~~
~~software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~
~~wherein determining the outcomes comprises the step of using~~ storing the rates of return
in a time series database of rates of return for each of the financial strategies.

4. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for
determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, ~~comprising the steps~~
~~of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~
~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a~~
~~software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~
~~wherein the~~ step of determining a utility score comprises using a software-implemented
decision analysis uses based on multi-attribute utility theory.

5. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim [[4]]2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting the financial strategy having a highest utility score.

6. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 4, further comprising: wherein using the software-implemented decision analysis using multi-attribute utility theory comprises the steps of:

determining a goals hierarchy for the at least one financial goal goals;

~~determining attributes for the financial goals;~~

determining a single utility function for each attribute of the at least one financial goal;

determining a weight for each attribute; and

determining a weight for each of the at least one financial goal; ~~and~~

wherein the determining a utility score for each financial strategy by using the outcomes, is determined based on the single-utility functions, the weights for the attributes, and the weights for the financial goals.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 6, wherein the at least one financial goal goals, the attributes, the single utility functions, and the weights for the attributes are determined using input provided by a financial planner.

8. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 6, wherein the ~~weights~~ weight for the at least one financial goal is goals ~~are~~ determined using the investor

financial preferences ~~provided by an investor~~, input provided by a financial planner, or a combination of financial preferences provided by an investor and input provided by a financial planner.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim ~~[[20]]~~2, wherein ~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies~~ receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of ~~using~~ receiving financial preferences provided by an investor.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to claim ~~[[20]]~~2, wherein ~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies~~ receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of ~~using~~ receiving input provided by a financial planner.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein ~~for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals,~~ comprising the steps of:

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies~~ receiving investor financial preferences comprises the step of ~~using~~ receiving a combination of financial preferences provided by an investor and input provided by a financial planner.

12. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for ~~determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on investor financial preferences of an investor as to the financial goals.

13. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for ~~determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on financial variables related to the financial strategies.

14. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for ~~determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy using a heuristic based on investor financial preferences ~~of an investor as to the financial goals~~, financial variables related to the financial strategies, and utility scores determined for the financial strategies.

15. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, ~~for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

wherein each financial strategy is determined from a multi-dimensional matrix of at least one financial variable and stored on a computer-readable medium, the multi-dimensional matrix having a plurality of cells, each cell in the multi-dimensional matrix corresponding to one of the financial strategies.

16. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, ~~for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

wherein each financial strategy further comprises ~~an asset allocation~~, a product mix[[,]] and a likelihood of success for achieving at least one of an investment of assets, an accumulation of assets, or a withdrawal of assets.

17. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim [[16]] 2, wherein the asset allocation comprises an allocation of at least one of stocks, bonds, or short-term securities.

18. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 16, wherein the product mix comprises a mix of at least one of a mutual fund or a variable annuity.

19. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein at least one financial strategy includes at least one of the following: periodic withdrawal; inflation adjustment; minimal required distributions; an ordered withdrawal strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; an ordered annuity purchase strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; periodic tax adjustment; periodic shifting of asset allocations; periodic rebalancing of assets to align with a current asset allocation; re-investment of excess annuity payments; reinvestment of excess minimal required distributions; investor contributions; asset management fees; staggered investor account starts; or MRD mortality rules.

20. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for ~~determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps~~ of:

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~
~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a~~
~~software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~
wherein the at least one financial goal is goals are related to retirement financial goals.

21. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, for ~~determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps~~ of:

~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~
~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a~~
~~software-implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~
further comprising the step of providing a questionnaire for an investor, the questionnaire
for determining investor financial preferences ~~of the investor as to the financial goals~~.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~for determining at least one~~
~~financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising the steps of:~~
~~determining an outcome for each of a plurality of financial strategies; and~~

~~selecting at least one of the financial strategies to meet the financial goals using a software implemented decision analysis and the outcomes for the financial strategies;~~

further comprising the step of creating a report describing the ~~step of determining an outcome~~, the step of selecting at least one of the financial strategies[[,]] and the selected at least one of the financial strategies.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having software for performing the method of claim [[20]] 2.

26. (Currently amended) A computer system for performing the method of claim [[20]] 2.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) A computer system for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, comprising:

means for storing investor information regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal;

means for storing a plurality of financial strategies, each financial strategy including an asset allocation;

means for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

means for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

a software-implemented projection engine ~~for determining an outcome~~ that determines financial projections for each of the financial strategies using the rates of return ~~the investor information;~~

means for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

a software-implemented preference model incorporating the investor information;

means for determining a utility score for each of the financial strategies using the preference model and the plurality of attributes measures for each respective financial strategy ~~outcomes from the projection engine;~~ and

means for selecting at least one of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the financial strategies.

30. (Currently amended) ~~An information storage device embodying a questionnaire for an investor, the questionnaire~~ A computer-readable medium having software for determining at least one financial strategy for assets to meet financial goals, the at least one financial strategy including an asset allocation, ~~determined using Monte Carlo simulations of a plurality of the~~

~~financial strategies and software implemented decision analysis employing multi-attribute utility theory, the information storage device~~ the computer-readable medium comprising:

~~means instructions for receiving querying the investor as to financial preferences regarding a plurality of attributes for at least one financial goal; , the financial preferences being related to the financial goals;~~

~~means for querying the investor as to assets of the investor; and~~

~~means for querying the investor as to personal data of the investor;~~

instructions for performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations on the asset allocation of each financial strategy based on a probability distribution;

instructions for generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy based on the Monte Carlo simulations;

instructions for determining financial projections for each financial strategy based on the rates of return for each respective financial strategy;

instructions for determining a plurality of attribute measures for each financial strategy based on the financial projections for each respective financial strategy, the plurality of attribute measures corresponding to the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal;

instructions for determining a utility score for each financial strategy based on the plurality of the attribute measures for each respective financial strategy and the investor financial preferences regarding the plurality of attributes for the at least one financial goal; and

instructions for selecting at least one of the financial strategies from the plurality of financial strategies based on the utility scores for the plurality of financial strategies

~~wherein the Monte Carlo simulations use the financial preferences of the investor, the assets of the investor, and the personal data of the investor, and the multi-attribute utility theory uses the financial preferences of the investor.~~

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein the at least one financial goal ~~includes~~ goal includes college tuition financial goals.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing the computer-implemented method of claim [[32]]20.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~method~~ computer-readable medium according to claim [[4]]30, wherein at least one financial strategy includes at least one of the following: periodic withdrawal; inflation adjustment; minimal required distributions; an ordered withdrawal strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; an ordered annuity purchase strategy based on tax characteristics of the assets; periodic tax adjustment; periodic shifting of asset allocations; periodic rebalancing of assets to align with a current asset allocation; re-investment of excess annuity payments; reinvestment of excess minimal required distributions; investor contributions; asset management fees; staggered investor account starts; or MRD mortality rules.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein generating rates of return for each respective financial strategy comprises:

constructing a covariance matrix for the asset allocation of each respective financial strategy based on each of a plurality of sub-asset classes of the asset allocation of each financial strategy;

determining deviations for a zero rate of return obtained from the plurality of Monte Carlo simulations; and

combining the covariance matrix for the asset allocation, deviations for a zero rate of return obtained from the plurality of Monte Carlo simulations, and an average rate of return for each sub-asset class to obtain the rates of return for each respective financial strategy.

40. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein performing a plurality of Monte Carlo simulations comprises:

for each of a plurality of sub-asset classes of the asset allocation of each financial strategy, determining a probability distribution for the sub-asset class based on at least one of historical data of the sub-asset class or input provided by a financial planner.

41. (New) A method according to claim 2, wherein the probability distribution is a Gaussian probability distribution.

42. (New) A computer-implemented method according to claim 2, wherein selecting at least one of the financial strategies comprises the step of selecting a financial strategy which does not have a highest utility score.